

A N
AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
Under a COMMISSION of BANKRUPTCY
AGAINST

J O H N P E R R O T T,

Late of *Ludgate-Hill*, LACEMAN;

Who was executed in SMITHFIELD, on *Wednesday, November 11, 1761.*

For CONCEALING his EFFECTS,

Including every Transaction from the awarding the Commission, to the
Time of his Condemnation.

Published under the INSPECTION of the
PRINCIPAL ACTING ASSIGNEE.

P A R T II.

——— Foul deeds *will rise,*
Though all the earth o'erwhelm them, to mens eyes. SHAKESPEAR.

Henceforth, let no man trust the first false step
Of Guilt; it hangs upon a precipice,
Whose steep descent in last Perdition ends. YOUNG.

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A N

AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE

O F

P R O C E E D I N G S, &c.

I N the foregoing part of these proceedings, *Perrott* has been traced through a labyrinth of prevarication and perjury.—On his first examination*, though he solemnly denied his having had any other *house* or *lodgings*, or that he *paid* for the *lodgings* of any other person, except as in that deposition is excepted, certain it is, he had paid for several other houses and lodgings, at different times and in different places†.—Even at or about the time when he became a Bankrupt, he had *chambers* in the *Temple*, as appears from several receipts and papers now in the possession of the assignees; and which also is, in some measure, confirmed by the deposition of *Catherine Bowen*‡.

In his second || and third** examinations, exclusive of the several inconsistencies before pointed out, to the crime of perjury, *Perrott* added the sin of ingratitude. In the latter of these examinations, it may not be impertinent to mention a circumstance before passed over. Being interrogated with respect to a note of his hand of the sum of 900 *l.* payable to Mr. *Whitton*, he, for some time, insisted, that *he did not remember his ever giving any such note*; but being closely pressed, and a positive answer demanded, he did afterwards acknowledge, that he *had* given Mr. *Whitton* such a note. But there cannot be a stronger proof of *Perrott's* premeditated baseness to Mr. *Whitton*, than the two sub-

B 2

joined

* See Part i. p. 4. † Ibid. p. 35. ‡ Ibid. p. 24. || Ibid. p. 8. ** Ibid. p. 11.

joined letters, which have come to the hands of the compiler of this narrative since the publication of the former part. These letters clearly demonstrate *Perrott's* obligations to Mr. *Whitton*, the falshood of his accusation against that gentleman, and the fraudulent design which the former had conceived in *making* and *shewing* his Will *only* to the latter, in the year 1757.—Mr. *Whitton* is universally, and indeed justly, esteemed an honest, artless, good-natured man ; and the discerning reader will readily perceive, that *Perrott* had well studied, and that he pursued the most likely means of imposing on, such a character*.

To

* To Mr. Edward Whitton.

DEAR FRIEND,

London 19th Jan. 1758.

I Rec. your kind letter the 4th instant, which gave me great pleasure to find your piles was a little better, which pray God continue. Since my last you find it is a general mourning, tho' a short one, as it is only for 6 weeks ; tho' thank God, and my worthy Mr. *Whitton*, it does not affect me, as by your good assistance am so largely in the linnen trade, that it does not touch ; tho' as it is so short, hope it will be no detriment to our spring trade. The greatest inconvenience will be, it will make people backward in their payments. There has been a greater demand for clear lawns on this account, and have the pleasure to tell you, I have clear'd thirty pounds by what I have sold since I saw you, so that I have, what with that, and settling accounts, and receiving some few linnens from *Dublin*, been fully employed ; and thank God took your good advice by keeping up my spirits, having been extremely well and more pleased than spending the holidays in feasting.

* * * * *

The offers and encouragement I meett with in trade makes me extreamly happy, all which I shall as long as life, most gratefully acknowledge, is owing to my dearest Mr. *Whitton*. The offers from *Dublin*, which I mentioned in my last, I cannot at present accept off, which was about *June*, to send me goods either on commission or on my own account, by which am sure I could, in a twelve months time, make twenty *per cent.* and make great returns ; but this would require a thousand pound more in trade, which would only be wanted for a twelve month. I should think myself extreamly happy to have a few hours conversation with you, but at present it is impossible ; but hope it will be early in the spring that I shall have the pleasure to see you, but must beg to have the happiness of a line from you often, as it will give me great spirits to hear that you get better. * * * * *

* * * * *

We last night had a badd fire for the time it held ; it was in *Little Britain*, and burnt down one house, but happily was extinguished without farther damage.

I

To the former observations on his *fourth*, which properly was his *final*, examination, may be added, that though *Perrott* swears he

I have lately got a dozen franks, and have enclosed you a couple, as you may probably want one at some time. I do not mean to enclose mine in, but for any other you may have occasion; and if you want more at any time, pray mention it.

On *Monday* I had a letter from Mrs. ——— of *Stoney Stratford*, with an order for three pieces of fine *Irish*, which I sent the same day.

For which, as well as numberless favours, am indebted to you, and am, on all occasions,

My dearest Friend,

Your ever sincere and affectionate

Humble Servant to Command,

JOHN PERROTT.

DEAR FRIEND,

London, February 9th, 1758.

I Received your kind favour, and was greatly pleas'd to find your piles are better, which pray God to continue. I should have answered your's last week, but waited as I expected a letter from Mr. *Exshaw* * * * * *

* * * * *

It is not in my power, my dearest and best friend, to tell you, how much satisfaction you gave me in your kind intentions to assist me in promoting my trade, was it in your power; together with many other favours, shall, as long as life, most gratefully acknowledge.

This offer is so great, that I would, if possible, embrace it; as I before mentioned, that the money I should only want for that time, and be certain of not only the advantage from it, but also it will establish me in such a trade that few of my age and standing ever mett with.

Now, I know not of any friend but your dear self, and you also know every transaction of my life, as I am sure there is nothing but what I should always divulge to you; and as you was so good to be *executor of my will*, so you would, should it please God to take me, have no farther trouble than first *paying yourself*, and placing the *legacys* I have left in such a manner as you best approve. *Therefore beg leave to propose one thing to your consideration, which is, as you have money in the stocks, and can at any time sell, (tho' to be sure at a disadvantage from what you bought in at) and as the interest I can make will be 20 per cent. I would engage to place the same at the price the stocks are then; as should they advance, it is not probable they will so much.*

When you may depend on not only the principal being paid to the day, but also the interest for the same. There is nothing can advance the stocks much but a peace, of which we shall have notice. This proposal, I beg leave to have your sentiment thereon, by which I shall be entirely guided, as I am certain I would not desire any

he had delivered up, under the commission, all *books, papers, and writings*, relative to his estate; and that he had not removed or concealed any *books* of account, *papers*, or *writings** relating thereto. Yet it is more than probable that he did keep other books, besides those found in his possession, particularly a cash book, seeing his stationer furnished him with a book ruled for that purpose, in *January*, 1759; nor can there be any doubt but *Perrott* did keep cash books while his accounts were in order, seeing there appear references to them in his ledger; but no such book or books were delivered, or have been discovered.

The two subsequent examinations were had at the request of the bankrupt, and were planned in *Newgate*—That on the 5th day of *June*, 1760†, is reported to have had the approbation of council: a thing hardly credible, both on account of the extravagance of its contents, and of the effrontery in supposing it could give satisfaction either to the commissioners or creditors.—The
exami-

any thing to be done without your entire approbation, neither would I have proposed it, unless *at a certainty* to you, and *a prospect of the greatest advantage* to me.—Please to observe, I shall not want the money 'till *June*; but the reason of my now proposing it, is, as I must soon give an answer, whether I can accept of it or not, as I must either remitt the money the beginning of *June*; or, they will draw on me to be then paid, this will have done according to the exchange, which is most in my favour.—After you have considered on this affair, shall be glad to have a line from you. I saw Mr. D *** about a fortnight ago, since which he has sent me half a dozen of franks; he is quite hearty: I have enclosed a couple for yourself.

This place affords little news; and, indeed, I know as little of that, as I am confined all day, not so much from the hurry of business, but must give attendance; though, thank God, am not idle. I have sent Mr. B ****, of *****, a parcel of *Irish*, so that, unless I had them directly from *Ireland*, I could not serve him, as he buys at *Chester* the same as myself. I have also received a pack of his linnens, he is an extream good customer and friend.

We had last night a fire in *White-Chappell*, of which there is differant reports, there is certainly three or four houses burnt down, and am afraid some poor creatures burnt, it is said, there is six, but a person this moment tells me onely one, which was a porter at the oil-shop where it began.—I hope your piles continue better, which I sincerely wish; and am, my dearest friend, your ever affectionate,

Humble Servant, to command,

JOHN PERROTT.

* See Part i. p. 14.

† Ibid. p. 18.

examination taken the 21st day of *March*, 1761 *, must, from its absurdity, be considered merely as the last effort of conscious guilt, and a jaded invention.

It would be injustice to the commissioners, who acted under this commission of bankruptcy, not to acknowledge the pains they took to unravel this perplexed scene of iniquity ; they attended with unwearied patience when ever required, and heard with unbiaſſed candour, whatever came before them.

In *September*, 1760, *forty pounds per cent.* were offered for the discovery of any part of the Bankrupt's estate ; which advertisement was frequently repeated in all the public papers ; but with no effect, till the following information was made.

Mary Harris, spinster, (late servant to *Mary Ferne*, of *Brunswick-Row*, in *Queen-Square*, in the county of *Middlesex*, widow, but now lodging at the house of *Mr. Williams*, in *New-North-street*, *Red-Lion-Square*, *Holborn*, saith, that she hath known the said *Mary Ferne* for the space of four years now last past, or thereabouts ; says, the maiden name of the said *Mary Ferne* was *Weldon* ; that she came from *Derbyshire* (but the place this informant cannot recollect) where her father kept a little farm, as the said *Mary Ferne* told this informant, and which she verily believes to be true :—says, that about four years since, the said *Mary Ferne* lived as a servant with one *Mrs. Herman*, in *Watling-street*, *London*, as she likewise told this informant.—And, this informant saith, that the said *Mary Ferne* came from the service of the said *Mrs. Herman* to lodge at one *Mr. Jefferson's*, a grocer in *Sheer-Lane*, near *Temple-Bar*, where this informant then also lodged.—And, this informant saith, that the said *Mary Ferne* continued to lodge at the said *Mr. Jefferson's* about six weeks, to the best of this informant's remembrance, as to the time ; and, that, during such time, she, this informant and the said *Mary Ferne* were bedfellows together :—says, that, after the said *Mary Ferne* left the house of the said *Mr. Jefferson*, this informant did not see her for the space of two years or thereabouts, to the best of her remembrance as to the time :—but, this informant saith, that

* See Part i. p. 29.

“ that during the time, *she*, this informant, and the said *Mary Ferne*
 “ were bedfellows together, at the house of the said Mr. *Jefferson*, the
 “ said *Mary Ferne* told this informant, that she had *no money*, and
 “ was in *great want of cloaths*, and *all other necessaries*; and, that
 “ the *reason* of her leaving the *country* was, *because* her parents
 “ had *turned her out of doors*.—And, this informant says, that, on
 “ or about the 14th day of *February* last, the said *Mary Ferne*, called
 “ on this informant at her lodgings in *New-North-street* aforesaid,
 “ and gave this informant an invitation to come and see her, of
 “ which this informant accepted; and, accordingly went there the
 “ next day, being on or about the 15th day of *February* last,—and
 “ says, that the said *Mary Ferne* then and there told this informant,
 “ that she wanted a *servant*, and desired this informant to live with
 “ her in that capacity, with which this informant complied.——
 “ And this informant says, she accordingly went to live with the
 “ said *Mary Ferne* as a servant, and lived with her in that capacity,
 “ from about the *fifth day* of *March* last, till about the *fourth day*
 “ of *June* following, when she quitted the service of the said *Mary*
 “ *Ferne*.——Says, that during the time she was in the service of
 “ the said *Mary Ferne*, she had frequent discourses with her con-
 “ cerning one *John Perrott*, of *Ludgate Hill*, *London*, Merchant, a
 “ Bankrupt.—And this informant says, that having frequently seen
 “ a *very considerable number* of BANK NOTES in the *possession* of said
 “ *Mary Ferne*, to the amount of FOUR THOUSAND Pounds, and
 “ upwards, and well knowing that the said *Mary Ferne* was, but a
 “ short time before, in *very indigent* circumstances, this informant
 “ asked her, *how* she came to be *possessed* of *so large a fortune*? or
 “ to that effect; upon which the said *Mary Ferne* replied, she *had*
 “ it from FELLOWS, whom she *always* made to *pay for favours*
 “ *received*.—And this informant saith, that the said *Mary Ferne*
 “ hath often told this informant, that when she, the said *Mary*
 “ *Ferne*, *first* became acquainted with the said *John Perrott*, she
 “ had then *no dependance at all*, and *scarce any cloaths* to her
 “ *back*.——And this informant says, that when she first
 “ went to live with the said *Mary Ferne*, she told this in-
 “ formant, that *all* her *fortune* was owing to a gentleman,
 “ whose PICTURE then *hung in the dining-room* of the said Mrs.
 “ *Ferne*, where this informant and the said Mrs. *Ferne* then
 “ were,

“ were, and afterwards *shewed* this informant a *small* picture,
 “ which hung in the said room, and which, she said, was the pic-
 “ ture of the said *John Perrott*; and then repeated to this in-
 “ formant, that all her fortune was owing to him: and this in-
 “ formant is well convinced, such *picture* was intended to *represent*
 “ the said *John Perrott*, because the said *Mary Ferne* afterwards told
 “ the said *John Perrott*, in *Newgate*, where he then was confined
 “ a prisoner, in the presence and hearing of this informant, that
 “ she had shewn to this informant *his* picture, and what had passed
 “ between *her*, this informant, and the said *Mary Ferne*, concern-
 “ ing such *picture*; in which the said *John Perrott* acquiesced, and
 “ asked this informant, *if* she thought the *picture* like him? and this
 “ informant says, that during the time she lived in the service of
 “ the said *Mary Ferne*, she almost daily went with the said *Mary*
 “ *Ferne* to *Newgate*, to visit the said *John Perrott*; that she has fre-
 “ quently heard the said *John Perrott* and *Mary Ferne* discourse
 “ together in *Newgate*, in what manner they should live when he
 “ was got discharged out of *Newgate*.—And in particular this in-
 “ formant saith, that one day, but the particular time when, this
 “ informant cannot recollect, the said *Mary Ferne*, in the presence
 “ and hearing of this informant, told the said *Mr. Perrott*, that
 “ the house of one *Sir John Smith Bart.* situate in *Queen's Square*
 “ aforesaid, was to be sold; upon which *John Perrott* said to her,
 “ *My Dear, have you a mind of it?* the said *Mary Ferne* replied,
 “ *Yes, if I can get it for eight or nine hundred pounds;* upon which
 “ the said *John Perrott* replied, *My Life, if you have a mind of it,*
 “ *I should like it of all places in the world.*—And this informant
 “ saith, that, in consequence of such conversation, the said *Mary*
 “ *Ferne* went to the *place of sale* of the said house, and bid *nine*
 “ *hundred and ninety-five pounds* for the purchase thereof; but did
 “ not buy it, as she afterwards told this informant, and which
 “ she verily believes to be true.—And this informant saith, that
 “ the said *Mary Ferne* took with her the *half* of a bank-note of
 “ *one thousand pounds* value, as she informed this deponent, in or-
 “ der to pay for the said house, if she should purchase it, which
 “ she *shewed* to this informant, and *told* this deponent, that the
 “ *other half* of the said *note* was *then* in the *hands* of the said *John*
 “ *Perrott*.—And this informant farther saith, that the said *Mary*
 “ *Ferne*

“ *Ferne* hath often told this deponent, that the said *John Perrott*
 “ hath in *his possession* an account of *all the bank-notes* in the *possession*
 “ of *her*, the said *Mary Ferne*; and that she, the said *Mary*
 “ *Ferne*, frequently cuts *bank-notes* in *two*, and gives *one half* to him
 “ to keep ’till she wants it, in order that the said *John Perrott*
 “ may know what she expends; for the said *Mary Ferne* frequently
 “ told this informant, that the said *John Perrott* expects from her
 “ an account of her expences, for *his satisfaction*.—And saith, that
 “ the said *Mary Ferne* hath frequently informed her, this deponent,
 “ that the said *John Perrott*, before he went to *Newgate*, obliged
 “ her to give him an account of her *daily expences*.—And this infor-
 “ ant farther says, that she has frequently heard the said *John*
 “ *Perrott* tell the said *Mary Ferne*, that when he came out of
 “ *Newgate*, he will make her a present of a *pair of diamond ear-*
 “ *rings*, and a *pair of diamond shoe-buckles*, and will lay out up-
 “ on her in cloaths *three hundred pounds*.—And this informant
 “ saith, that the said *Mary Ferne* declared to this deponent, that
 “ if she had known that the said *John Perrott* was going to fail,
 “ she would have got *all she could from him*, and that his *creditors*
 “ should not have had *any thing*, or to that effect.—And this depo-
 “ nent saith, that the said *Mary Ferne* also declared to this inform-
 “ ant, that as she had now got *all she could from him*, the said
 “ *John Perrott*, therefore she must maintain him; but that she
 “ did not do it out of *any particular regard for him*.—And this in-
 “ formant saith, that the said *Mary Ferne*, hath often declar-
 “ ed to this deponent, that she expected the *creditors* of the said
 “ *John Perrott* to come and search her lodgings; and that if they
 “ came, she said she would take up a book called *Rocheſter’s Poems*,
 “ in which she kept the *bank-notes* abovementioned, and as they
 “ would not suspect they were in them, would by that means con-
 “ ceal such *bank-notes*.—And lastly this informant saith, that from
 “ the late *low* circumstances of the said *Mary Ferne*, from the very
 “ great affluence in which she now lives, and from all the premises
 “ beforementioned, *this deponent* verily believes that the said *Mary*
 “ *Ferne* hath *very large sums* in her possession, which are the pro-
 “ perty of the said *John Perrott*.

Sworn before me

this 23d day of June, 1761.

John Fielding.

MARY HARRIS.

In consequence of the foregoing information a warrant was issued on *Thursday* the 25th of *June*, 1761, by the worshipful *John Fielding Esq*; now *Sir John Fielding*, to search the apartments of *Mrs. Ferne*; and, at the same time, by virtue of a warrant from the commissioners, *Perrott's* room in *Newgate*, was also searched. In the possession of the former were found the *halves* of the following bank-notes.

No.	payable to	dated	signed	£.
C272.	<i>Joseph Lascombe</i> ,	2d of <i>March</i> , 1761.	<i>B. Sabbarton</i> .	40
C174.	<i>S. & W. Smith</i> ,	27th of <i>Feb.</i> 1761.	<i>John White</i> .	50
K316.	<i>Drummond & Co.</i>	26th of <i>March</i> , 1761.	<i>Geo. Ring</i> .	50
9,	<i>Thomas Slann</i> ,	17th of <i>Feb.</i> 1761.	<i>John White</i> .	20
K260.				25

The corresponding halves of the first four of the above notes were found by *Mr. Robert Browne*, who acted as messenger under the commission, at the bottom of *Perrott's* trunk, tied, or sewed up very carefully in a piece of rag: together with the signed moiety of another bank-note for *one thousand* pounds, dated the 30th day of *June*, 1760.

On the same day, *Mrs. Ferne* was carried before *Sir John Fielding*, and examined touching the said several bank-notes: when she insisted that "they were her own property:—that she used frequently to ride out, and by that means got acquainted with gentlemen, from whom she received the said bank-notes, for favours granted them."—She admitted that she had the other moiety of the bank-note for *one thousand* pounds, found in *Perrott's* trunk in *Newgate*, but declared that she had sent it into *Derbyshire*.

On this discovery, application was made to the *Bank*, in order to trace out these notes; when it appeared that one *Mr. Martin Mathias* had exchanged at the *Bank*, on the 30th of *June*, 1760, the several notes specified below, amounting to *two thousand and one hundred* pounds, for three other notes, to wit, *two of one thousand* pounds each, and *one of one hundred* pounds.

No.	payable to	dated	£.
K79,	Wm. Fordyce,	2d of January 1760.	500
C282,	Sir C. Apgill & Co.	14th of December 1759.	400
H39,	Vere & Co.	13th of December 1758.	100
H257,	Ditto	5th of December 1759.	100
C186,	Pewtreffs and Co.	10th of December 1759.	100
7,	W. Stoneball,	15th of November 1759.	100
H382,	Fuller and Co.	16th of November 1759.	100
C262,	Belcier and Co.	19th of November 1759.	200
B253	James Richardson.	23d of October 1759.	100
H69,	Willis and Co.	29th of August 1759.	100
B138,	Robert Dallas,	15th of November 1759.	100
K151,	Henry Martin	5th of October 1759.	100
H397,	Thomas Reynolds,	16th of November 1759.	100

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N. B. All the above described notes appeared cut in two parts, and joined together with wax when they were tendered at the Bank.

Notes received by Mr. Mathias in lieu of the above.

H214,	1000l.
H215,	1000
H216,	100

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These notes were made payable to the said Mr. Mathias, and were all dated on the 30th of June, 1760.

Induced by these circumstances, it was thought adviseable to cause the said Mr. Mathias and Mrs. Ferne to be summoned before the major part of the commissioners, when the former gave upon oath the following deposition, which fully explains the manner in which the above notes came to his possession.

At

At the *Half-Moon Tavern, Cheapside*, the 30th day of *June*
1761.

" MARTIN MATHIAS, of *Lincoln's-Inn, London, Gentleman*,
" being sworn and examined, the day and year above-written,
" on his oath, saith, that he knows *Mary Anne Ferne*, and first
" knew her about the month of *May, 1760*.——Says, that he
" was at the *Rainbow Coffee-House in Cornhill*, about the latter
" end of *April*, or the beginning of *May, 1760*, in company
" with Messieurs * * * and * * * *, Merchants.——Says, that
" Mr. * * * was this deponent's client, and recommended him
" to Mr. *Perrott*, and both Mr. * * * and Mr. * * * *, went
" with deponent to *Newgate*, which was the first time de-
" ponent saw *Perrott*.——That Mr. *Perrott*, then related his
" unhappy case, to him, this deponent, and said he thought him-
" self happy in having a person recommended to him by Mr. * * * .
" ——Says, he thinks the said *Mary Anne Ferne*, was then
" present, which was the first time deponent saw her.——
" From that time this deponent undertook Mr. *Perrott's* matter.
" Mr. * * * then telling deponent, that if a sum he then
" mention'd, not exceeding *five or six pounds*, would assist Mr.
" *Perrott*, he would be answerable to deponent for it, in case
" Mr. *Perrott*, or any other person, for him, should not pay it.
" ——Says, that in the month of *June, 1760*, in an afternoon,
" the said Mrs. *Ferne*, brought to this deponent sundry *Bank*
" notes, to the amount of *twenty two hundred pounds*, to the best
" of this deponent's recollection as to the sum; and desired
" deponent would get her one *Bank note* for them all. ——Says,
" that to the best of his knowledge (but cannot certainly recollect)
" he immediately sent them to Mr. *Hoare*, his Banker, for that
" purpose (and as this deponent believes) by *William Morgan*,
" this deponent's clerk ——Says, that to the best of deponent's
" recollection, all the said notes were cut in two, upon which
" this deponent asked the reason why they were cut in halves :
" upon which she told deponent they were sent out of the country
" to her, and cut so for safety.——Says, she left all the said notes
" with deponent, and he gave her a receipt to be accountable for
" them, or the value on demand. ——Says, that on the next
" day, to the best of his recollection, as to the time, he went
" into

" into the city, and, amongst other business, he went to the *Bank*
 " for *Mrs. Ferne*, and desired *one Bank note* for the whole; but
 " received *two Bank notes* of the value of *one thousand pounds*
 " *each*, and *one of two hundred*, to the best of this depo-
 " nent's knowledge and belief, and says, he took such *notes* out
 " in the *name of this deponent*. — Says, that soon after he re-
 " ceived them, he gave them to *Mrs. Ferne*, at his, this depo-
 " nent's chambers, no other person being then present, as this
 " deponent remembers, and took up the receipt he had given for
 " them. — Says, he never saw the said *notes* afterwards, nor
 " knows what became of them; except that this deponent after-
 " wards saw one half of one of the such *Bank notes* of *one thou-*
 " *sand pounds* (as deponent believes) and believes that the *half*
 " of a *Bank note* of *one thousand pounds* value, now produced to
 " this deponent, is the *other half* of said *Bank note*. — Says,
 " that he saw the *first mentioned half* of such *Bank note* of *one thou-*
 " *sand pounds* value, on *Saturday* the 27th day of *June* instant,
 " in the possession of the said *Mary Anne Ferne*, at her house or
 " lodgings, in *Brunswick-Row, Queen-Square*, when she told
 " deponent that the *other half* of such *Bank note* had been seized
 " upon *Mr. Perrott*, in *Newgate*. — Says, the reason of his
 " going to *Mrs. Ferne*, was on seeing an *advertisement* in the
 " papers, concerning *Mr. Perrott*. — Says, nobody was present
 " with *Mrs. Ferne*, at that time, as he remembers. — Says, he
 " told her he had seen an *advertisement* in the papers, and that
 " *Mr. Perrott* appeared to be in a *bad situation*, or to that
 " effect; to which *Mrs. Ferne* made answer, *No! not at all*, for
 " one of the *half notes* so seized, was the *half* of one of the
 " *one thousand pounds notes* I had from you, and you know was my
 " property. — Says, she then produced the *other half* of such
 " note of *one thousand pounds*, and said the *rest* of the *half*
 " notes that were seized were all *mine*, and I can make it ap-
 " pear at a proper time; or then used words to that effect.
 " — And this deponent saith, she then declared, as she had
 " often done before, she never had any thing belonging to
 " *Mr. Perrott* in her life time, or to that effect, to which, depo-
 " nent replied he was very glad to hear it. — Says, that he does not
 " know whether *Mrs. Ferne* is a *married woman*, a *widow*, or a
 " single

“ *single woman*.——Says, that she has paid him several sums for
 “ *business* done for Mr. Perrott, and for attendances on her as his
 “ *friend*, and that he always gave receipts to Mrs. Ferne, for
 “ *business* done for Perrott, but how they were worded deponent
 “ cannot tell; but says, he always considered her as a *single wo-*
 “ *man*, but never made out any bill; but says, the charges in his
 “ books, stand with Perrott’s name opposite thereto.——Says,
 “ the reason why Mr. Perrott employed another attorney, was,
 “ because he, this deponent, declined being further concerned as
 “ herein aftermentioned.——Says, that having preferred a *petition*
 “ to the LORD KEEPER which was rejected, he went with Mrs.
 “ Ferne to * * * * *, Esq; and as this deponent then
 “ understood, it was at his Mr. * * * * ’s desire.——That
 “ Mr. * * * * *, seemed very desirous to put the petition in such a
 “ way as it might be answered, and gave deponent verbal di-
 “ rections what to state.——Says, that from that time, he would
 “ not pursue such instructions, but applied to Lord Mansfield, for an
 “ *habeas corpus* † to bring up Mr. Perrott from Newgate, where
 “ he was then a prisoner, and says, that upon the said John Per-
 “ rott’s being remanded back, he, this deponent, declined having
 “ any thing more to do with the affairs of the said John Perrott, to
 “ the best of deponent’s belief.——Says, he never received
 “ one shilling from Mr. Perrott on account of business or other-
 “ wise.——Says, that on Saturday last the 27th instant, he saw
 “ a moiety of a Bank note in the hands of Mrs. Ferne, which de-
 “ ponent believes was the value of fifty pounds or thereabouts.
 “ ———Says, he has often been in prison in Newgate,
 “ with Mr. Perrott; when Mrs. Ferne, was there, but never
 “ saw any of the abovementioned, or any other Bank notes
 “ whatsoever, or the halves, or other parts of any of such notes in
 “ the custody of the said John Perrott; nor did this deponent
 “ ever hear Mr. Perrott, or Mrs. Ferne, or either of them, at
 “ any time whatsoever, say any thing that might directly or in-
 “ directly induce this deponent to believe that the said Perrott,
 “ had at any time whatsoever, any right or property in any such
 “ notes.——On the contrary faith, he did then, and doth
 “ now, in his conscience, believe they were Mrs. Ferne’s own
 “ property

" *property*.——And faith, he hath no reason to believe that
 " she ever received from the said *Perrott*, any money or effects
 " whatsoever.——Says, he looked upon Mrs. *Ferne* as agent for
 " Mr. *Perrott*, and considered all she did relative to his affairs,
 " and the moneys she paid on his account, as flowing merely from her
 " own bounty, and the friendship and regard she had for the said *Per-*
 " *rott*.——Says, when Mr. * * * recommended this deponent to
 " the said *Perrott*, he said, the *Lady* with whom the said *Perrott*
 " was connected, (and which was the said Mrs. *Ferne*, as this
 " deponent believes) was a woman of property, and had an estate in
 " the country; which account he, this deponent, did then, and
 " doth now verily believe to be true, having no reason to induce
 " him to believe the contrary.——Says, he had no suspicion ei-
 " ther from her bringing him to change the notes above-
 " mentioned or from any other circumstances, (such as Mr. * * *
 " undertaking to pay this deponent as far as five or six pounds, as
 " above-mentioned, the said Mrs. *Ferne* not having at that time
 " undertaken to pay this deponent,) that the same were not the
 " property of the said *Mary Anne Ferne*; but from the account
 " Mr. * * * gave him of her, and from the genteel appearance
 " she makes, and her having deposited the half of the said one
 " thousand pound Bank note with *Perrott* in *Newgate*, and which
 " she told this deponent she so deposited for fear of accidents by fire,
 " or otherwise, as she looked upon *Newgate*, as the safest place
 " from accidents of that sort, he believes the same were her own
 " property.——Says, he understood at the time Mr. * * * re-
 " commended this deponent to be employed for the said *Perrott*,
 " as herein before is mentioned, he the said * * * was acquainted
 " with the said *John Perrott*, and *Mary Anne Ferne*, and with
 " the circumstances of the said Mrs. *Ferne* at that time."

M. MATHIAS.

It is left to the public to make observations on this deposition.—
 This publication is not intended to offend, much less to injure
 any one whatever; therefore, it is hoped, that as the facts are
 fairly stated, the omission of some names, which it might have
 been imprudent in the editor to have mentioned, will be ex-
 cused: nor indeed was the insertion of them necessary to the e-
 lucidation of the particular facts.

The

The immediately subsequent deposition, taken on the *same day*, and at the *same place*, will not require so much ceremony—It is as follows :

“ MARY ANN FERNE, lodging at Mrs. *Trower's* in *Brunswick-Row*, near *Queen's-Square*, *Holborn*, being sworn and examined, the day and year above written, on her oath faith to the following questions as follow : that is to say,

“ Q. What is or are your *Christian* name, or names ?

“ A. *Mary Ann*.

“ Q. What is, or are your *sirname* or *sirnames* ?

“ A. *Ferne*.

“ Q. Are you a *single* woman, a *married* woman, or a widow ?

“ A. A *widow*.

“ Q. What was your *maiden* name ?

“ A. *Welldon*.

“ Q. *Where* was you married, and *when* did your husband die, and *where* ?

“ Will give no answer ;—except that her husband died abroad, as lieutenant of a man of war, about two years ago.

“ And this deponent says, she was brought up at *Derby*, and *Keddlestone*, in the county of *Derby* ; but *does not know* the place of her birth.—Says her father was a Farmer, and lived at *Hoggelstone*, near *Keddlestone* aforesaid.—Says her father has been dead between *seven* and *eight* years.—Says this deponent's mother is now living ; that she is *married again*, but this deponent *does not know where she now resides*.—Says that this deponent hath two brothers, named *Joseph* and *Edward*.—Says that *Edward* lives in *London*, but where, this deponent knows not.—That he was put apprentice to a salesman and stay-maker at *Bradbourne* in *Derbyshire*, and believes he is now a journeyman in *London*.—Says that her brother, *Joseph Welldon*, is a *farmer*, and lives in the country, near *Colehill* in *Warwickshire*, to which place this deponent directs her letters.—Says her father made no will,—that she never heard of the state of her father's affairs after his death ; but that her mother remitted several trifling sums to her by way of *presents*, and *not as part of her fortune*.—Says she never made any enquiry into her father's affairs after his death ; nor ever received any money as part of his effects.—Says that

D

“ about.

“ about *five* years since, she left *Derbyshire*, and came im-
 “ mediately to *London*: and says she went to one Mr. *Pope's*, an
 “ attorney in the *Temple*: and from thence to one Mr. *Witber's*,
 “ a gentleman in the *Temple*, and from thence took a journey into
 “ *different parts* of the country for a year or two:—Says she after-
 “ wards lived at the house of Mrs. *Herman*, the wife of a mer-
 “ chant in *Watling-street*; but not in the capacity of a servant.—
 “ Says that whilst this deponent lived there, the said Mrs. *Herman*
 “ followed no trade.—Says that she was at Mrs. *Herman's* for her
 “ own convenience.—Says she went from Mrs. *Herman's* to *Yar-*
 “ *mouth*, to see her husband Mr. *Edward Ferne*; but he was gone
 “ from thence—that she was then married to Mr. *Ferne*, and was
 “ so when she first left *Derbyshire*, but her friends did not then
 “ know it.—Says that after her return from *Yarmouth* she had lodg-
 “ ings at *Parson's-Green*, at one Mr. *Sayer's*, a gentleman of fortune
 “ there.—Says she remained at *Parson's-Green* about *six months*,
 “ and went from thence to one Mr. *Foster's*, an engraver in *Fet-*
 “ *ter-Lane*, as a lodger, about the year 1758; and believes it was
 “ in the *latter end* of *August*, or the *beginning* of *September* in that
 “ year.—Says that about the *end* of *July*, or the *beginning* of
 “ *August* 1759, she first became acquainted with *John Perrott*,
 “ the person against whom the commission now in prosecution hath
 “ been awarded and issued; and that such acquaintance began
 “ when this deponent was a lodger at one Mr. *Humphry's*, an at-
 “ torney in *Hind-Court, Fleet-street*.—Says she removed
 “ from thence to one Mr. *Deighton's*, a hosier in *Serle-street*,
 “ *Lincoln's-Inn*.—Says she removed from thence to one Mrs.
 “ *Trower's* in *Brunswick-Row*, where she now lodges.—Says that
 “ about *seven* or *eight weeks* after this deponent became acquainted
 “ with the said *John Perrott*, namely, about the time he went to
 “ *Chester Fair*, he applied to this deponent to borrow the sum of
 “ *one hundred* and *fifty* pounds; that this deponent then lent him
 “ *fifty* pounds, she not then having the whole money. That she
 “ went with the said *John Perrott* to *Litchfield*; where she
 “ was met by one Mr. *Wyld*, who boarded at one Mr. *Daven-*
 “ *port's*, at *Ashbourn* in *Derbyshire*; and to whom she had wrote
 “ to meet her there:—and says the said Mr. *Wyld* brought with
 “ him money to *Litchfield*, and gave her *one hundred* pounds and
 “ up-

“ *upwards.* — And this deponent saith she lent the said
 “ *hundred* pounds at *Litchfield* to the said *John Perrott* :—saith the
 “ said Mr. *Wyld* would not take this deponent’s note, as she was
 “ a *married woman.*—Saith that after Mr. *Perrott*’s return from
 “ *Chester* he paid her *fifty* pounds, part of the said *one hundred*
 “ and *fifty* pounds :—says that Mr. *Perrott* gave depo-
 “ nent a note of hand for the *fifty* pounds, and afterwards took
 “ up the same, and gave her a note for *one hundred* and *fifty*
 “ pounds.—Says that between the time of Mr. *Perrott*’s re-
 “ turn from *Chester* as afore said, and the time of Mr. *Perrott*’s
 “ bankruptcy, she lent the said Mr. *Perrott* several sums of money,
 “ for which she always took his notes carrying interest at *five per*
 “ *cent.* that when the said sums amounted to *twelve hundred* pounds,
 “ she gave up to the said *John Perrott* all his notes, and took *one*
 “ *note for that sum.*—Says that the money she so lent to Mr.
 “ *Perrott* she had of a friend, *whose name she does not know*, but
 “ was acquainted with him *before* she knew Mr. *Perrott.* —
 “ Says he is an *elderly gentleman*, often wears a *blue coat*, and a
 “ *star* upon his breast, and a *cockade* in his hat.—Says when
 “ she wanted money, she used to write to such her friend,
 “ and address her letters to *A. B. at George’s Coffee-house* in the
 “ *Hay-market*, who used thereupon to *appoint her to meet him* in
 “ *St. James’s-Park*, which she did accordingly, and from thence
 “ they used to adjourn to the *Cardigan-head tavern* at *Charing-*
 “ *Cross*, where he used to supply her with what money she want-
 “ ed ; sometimes in cash, at other times, in bank-notes, and once
 “ by a draught on *Campbell and Coutts*, for *two hundred* pounds.—
 “ Says that she received another bank-note of *five hundred* pounds
 “ from a gentleman who was *seventy* years old, as she was told,
 “ who usually wears a *white coat*, with a *star* on it, and a *light-blue*
 “ garter, whose name she knows not : and that he gave it her at
 “ *Haddock’s Bagnio* : which note she gave Mr. *Mathias*, cut in two
 “ pieces, which were sealed together with red wax, on a piece of
 “ blank paper, and which was the only *large* bill she gave to Mr.
 “ *Mathias.*—Says that some time in last summer she delivered to the
 “ said Mr. *Mathias* besides the said note for *five hundred* pounds, se-
 “ veral other bank-notes, to the amount in the whole, of *two thou-*
 “ *sand* and *two-hundred* pounds, with orders to exchange the same

“ at the Bank for *two* bank-notes for *one thousand* pounds each,
 “ and *one* for *two hundred* pounds, to be made out in his *own*
 “ *name*.—Says she desired he would carry them to the *Bank* for
 “ that purpose.—Says she *did not desire to have the whole in one*
 “ *note*.—Says Mr. *Mathias* *did not then offer* to get the exchange
 “ made at *any banker's*.—Says he told her, he believed he should
 “ not go into the city the next day, but should the day after.
 “ —Says she told Mr. *Mathias* she wanted to change
 “ them into such large notes *for her more convenient laying*
 “ *them out in the stocks*.—Says he gave her his receipt for the
 “ notes she left with him; and in about *two or three* days after, on
 “ her applying to Mr. *Mathias* at his chambers, he gave her *three*
 “ notes, made out in his own name, *two* for *one thousand* pounds
 “ *each*, and the *other* for *two hundred* pounds.---Says Mr. *Mathias*
 “ asked her *whether they were her own property?* because as
 “ there was a *deficiency in Perrott's affairs*, and as she was ac-
 “ quainted with Mr. *Perrott*, the *creditors* would *suspect* it might
 “ be a *concealment*, and if so he *would have nothing to do with it* :
 “ upon which this deponent declared, she would *make oath* the
 “ same never were any part of his the said *Perrott's* property, and
 “ that he the said *Mathias* might shew the notes to COBB, the
 “ clerk; and to MAYNARD, one of the *assignees* under the said
 “ commission against *John Perrott*; and as to the remaining *one*
 “ *thousand and seven hundred* pounds, residue of the said *two thou-*
 “ *sand and two hundred* pounds.---Says she received the same at dif-
 “ ferent times from the gentleman she has above described, as wearing
 “ a *blue coat*, and with whom she corresponded, and addressed her
 “ letters to *A.B.* as before mentioned---Says she carried the *very*
 “ bank-notes to Mr. *Mathias*, as she received them from the said *A.*
 “ *B.* without any alteration, save that she had cut them in *halves* ;
 “ which she did in order to *secure* them, by *hiding* them in *different*
 “ *parts of her lodgings*, in case of accidents.---Says the reason of her
 “ keeping them by her was, that the said *A.B.* told her he should
 “ soon be able to *make it up a larger sum*, and advised her to *lay out*
 “ *the whole in the stocks*, which she then *promised him to do*.—
 “ And this deponent saith, that she did not lay out any part of the
 “ said *two thousand two hundred* pounds, in the *funds*, or other-
 “ wise at *interest*; but did dispose of it as follows.

“ To wit,

	L. S. D.
“ To ——— <i>Smith</i> , an upholsterer in <i>Lincoln's-Inn-</i>	
“ <i>Fields</i> , a bill of, at least	300 00 00
“ To ——— <i>Jones</i> , jeweller in or near <i>Round-Court</i>	
“ in the <i>Strand</i> , for jewels, at least	100 00 00
“ To ——— <i>Bellamy</i> , mercer at the <i>Indian Queen</i> ,	
“ near <i>Round-Court</i> aforefaid, about	30 00 00
“ To Miss <i>Dawson</i> , milliner at the <i>Golden Lion</i> ,	
“ near <i>Round-Court</i> aforefaid, at least	50 00 00
“ To ——— <i>Donkin</i> , solicitor, for law charges on	
“ account of Mr. <i>Perrott</i> , to the best of her re-	
“ collection as to the sum, about	230 00 00
“ To ——— <i>Mathias</i> , solicitor, on the like account	26 05 00
“ To council's opinions, and fees on the like account	
“ about ——— ——— ———	110 00 00
“ To Retainers of Mr. <i>Stowe</i> , fees and Clerk	2 07 00

“ And this deponent says, that after she received the said bank
 “ notes from Mr. *Mathias*, she changed one of the notes for one
 “ thousand pounds, and that of two hundred pounds, but when
 “ or with whom, she does not now recollect. ——— Says, she
 “ applied part of that money in paying the bills above-men-
 “ tioned; and as to the other note for one thousand pounds, and
 “ four or five other small Bank notes, to the value of three or
 “ four hundred pounds, which she received on changing the said
 “ other notes for one thousand pounds, and two hundred pounds
 “ respectively; she cut them all in halves, and delivered one half
 “ of each of them to the said *John Perrott*, and after sewing
 “ them up in a piece of dimity, and tied with tape, the same
 “ were deposited in Mr. *Perrott's* trunk, the key whereof, she,
 “ this deponent, used sometimes to take home with her to her
 “ lodgings. ——— Says, she has at different times deposited other
 “ Bank notes with *Perrott* for a day or two. ——— Says, she never
 “ took any receipt or acknowledgement from *Perrott*, as to any
 “ of the notes she so deposited with him. ——— Says, she left them
 “ with him intirely for safe custody, because her Maid-servant
 “ being apt to drink, she, this deponent, apprehended if she and
 “ her

“ *her servant should both happen to be in liquor together, there*
 “ *would be some danger of setting the house on fire.*——Says,
 “ *the reason why she left only halves of such notes with him,*
 “ *was because she thought it was more secure to divide them,*
 “ *and keep the halves at different places.* — Says, she deposited
 “ *the said half of the note for one thousand pounds, with Mr.*
 “ *Perrott about Michaelmas last, and says, she did on Saturday last*
 “ *shew to Mr. Martin Mathias, the other half of the said last-*
 “ *mentioned Bank note for 1000*l.* and also the half of another Bank*
 “ *note for twenty and five pounds, both which she sent last night by*
 “ *the private post to W. Wright, at Stoke, or Stone, in Devonshire.*
 “ ——Says, she can give no particular reason for letting so large
 “ a sum of money lie dead for so long a time, without laying
 “ out the same in the funds, or otherwise placing the same at
 “ interest, as she had promised the aforesaid A. B. she would do.
 “ ——Says, she is not able to set forth the whole amount of the
 “ different Bank notes, the halves of which she so deposited with
 “ the said John Perrott.—Says, that neither before, nor after the
 “ bankruptcy of the said John Perrott, she ever received directly
 “ or indirectly, either from the said John Perrott, or any other
 “ person or persons by his order, or on his account any sum or
 “ sums of money, bills, notes, or securities for money whatsoever;
 “ or any other part of the estate or effects of the said John
 “ Perrott, in any manner howsoever in presents or otherwise,
 “ except a pair of stone buckles, value one pound five shillings,
 “ and a piece of minionet lace, of about the same value, and
 “ some other trifles, not exceeding in the whole the value of one
 “ guinea, to the best of this deponent’s knowledge, remembrance,
 “ and belief.—And this deponent saith, that she knew, that if Mr.
 “ Perrott concealed any part of his estate and effects to the value
 “ of twenty pounds or upwards, that he incurred a capital offence.
 “ —Says, she is doubtful whether she should know Mr. * * *,†
 “ or not, unless she was to see him, and the first time she had
 “ any

† The person here meant is the gentleman who first introduced the last deponent to Mr. Perrott, and offered to be accountable for five or six pounds, see before page 13.

“ any knowledge of him, if the person enquired after is the
 “ man, she means, was about four months before Mr. Perrott
 “ became a bankrupt, and says the said Mr. * * *, had no know-
 “ ledge of this deponent's fortune or circumstances, except what
 “ she pleased to tell him, but cannot recollect the particular
 “ circumstances of the conversation that passed between her and
 “ the said Mr. * * *, upon that subject.

“ MARY ANNE FERNE.”

What an ample field would not the different examinations of this lady have furnished to a fertile genius, long conversant in the flowery regions of *Modern Romance*? What a number of humorous adventures might have been contrived for her, in the course of her *equestrian* excursions? — In what a number of intrigues might the two antiquated *Inamoratos* have been involved, especially as they were so remarkably *generous*? — And with what lustre might have been embellished the charms of this Paragon of beauty, who could command a tribute of no less than *five hundred* pounds, for only one interview? — In a word, it is not difficult to conceive that from the extraordinary particulars given of and by this gentlewoman, in these proceedings, an inventive imagination might have spun out, at least, two *fashionable* volumes.

But the compiler of this publication is obliged to confine himself strictly within the less-amusing, barren, paths of truth; which indeed are most suitable to his inclinations, as well as to his talents.

To proceed therefore in the same plain, unentertaining manner, in which the rest of this narrative has been conducted :—It fully appears that Mrs. Ferne's deposition agrees with the information of *Mary Harris**, in respect to the *birth-place* and *parentage* of the former; and with *Sarah Reed*'s† deposition in what relates to the different places of her residence.—*Sarah Reed* and *Mary Harris* also clearly concur in the indigence of Mrs. Ferne's circumstances previous to her acquaintance with *Perrott*.

On

* See above, Page 6. † See Part 1st, Page 20.

On the contrary, Mrs. *Ferne* scrupled not, when she first appeared before the commissioners†, to say, that if she had known *Perrott* was in danger of becoming a *bankrupt*, *she herself would have supported him*: and in this last examination she endeavours to persuade a belief, that, instead of *wanting*, she, generally, *abounded*: but indeed it would have been totally inconsistent with the views this lady seems to have more immediately had, to have admitted her circumstances no better than they had been represented by the two above mentioned deponents. Nevertheless the reader will hardly be inclined to conceive a very exalted opinion of a person's affluence, who was under the necessity of borrowing such small sums, and for such purposes, as the underwritten; which is faithfully copied from an original paper now in the hands of the assignees.

“ Money lent to Mrs. *Ferne*, by Mr. *****

August 1759.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
26 “ Lent in <i>Grays Inn Gardens</i>	0	3	0
28 “ Lent to redeem two table silver	0	17	0
“ spoons in pawn —			
30 “ Lent to redeem wedding ring and	0	10	6
tea spoons in pawn —			

September 1759

6 “ Lent, going to <i>White Conduit</i>	5	5	0
“ House, to pay Mr. <i>Deigh-</i>			
“ ton for board and lodging			
8 “ Lent in <i>Lincolns Inn Gardens</i> ,	1	1	0
“ to redeem some gowns in			
“ pawn —	0	10	6
9 “ Lent at your lodgings in <i>Queen-</i>			
“ Square —			

Carried over

8 7 0

October

† See Part I, p. 12.

		l.	s.	d.
	" Brought over	8	7	0
October 1759.	2 " Lent by bill on Mr. ———			
	" to redeem a RIDING-HABIT			
	" in pawn, in order to go to		1	9
	" DERBYSHIRE ———			6
November 1759	14 " Lent in <i>Lincolns Inn-Gardens</i> to			
	" pay Mr. <i>Deighton</i> his bill		2	2
	" for shop goods ———			0
			11	18
				6

August 15, 1760. Received, in part of the above account five guineas.

This account affords some striking remarks. It commences much about the time when Mrs. *Ferne* swears her acquaintance began with *Perrott*; and from her being so often obliged to borrow such small sums, it may be inferred he was not extravagantly generous in his earlier oblations to her; nor indeed (if report may be credited) was *Perrott* ever inclined to be very expensive in his amours*.

Mrs. *Ferne* swears, that about the time of *Perrott's* going to *Chester-Fair*, he applied to her for the loan of one hundred and fifty pounds: that she lent him fifty pounds before they left *London*, and the other hundred in the country. But surely the credibility of her testimony must be considerably impaired, when it is observed, as appears by the above account, that she herself was obliged to borrow money to redeem her riding-habit, in which she accompanied *Perrott* in a part of his journey†.

Another remarkable circumstance is, that on the same 14th day of *November*, that *Perrott* gave his note payable to her or order

* See Part 1st, Page 34. † This money was borrowed on the 2d of *October*, and *Chester Fair* begins the 10th.

der for *twelve hundred* pounds, Mrs. *Ferne* should be under the necessity of borrowing *two guineas* to pay a shop bill. It requires an uncommon degree of faith to believe that a lady should be able to lend so large a sum of money in the space of *six weeks*; (for it is not pretended *Perrott* borrowed any of her 'till he went his journey) and be herself in want of so small a sum. It is more than probable that this note was given subsequent to its date; perhaps in *Newgate*, and antedated on the abovementioned day, rather by chance than design. Or had any valuable consideration been actually and truly given for the said note, can it be supposed that Mrs. *Ferne* would have neglected proving the same under the commission, in order to receive her share of the dividend; as thereby she would have been better enabled to have extended her good offices to her friend *Perrott*.

It is confessed, on the part of Mrs. *Ferne*, that she had no original fortune: and it may be fairly inferred from what she herself swears, that her *future acquisitions* arose purely from her superior talents in the art of *pleasing*.

Among the variety of this lady's lovers, *two* are more signally distinguished for their unexampled generosity. Both these gentlemen are represented as *advanced* in years, and dignified with *stars*. From *A. B.*† (with whom she says she was acquainted before she knew *Perrott*) she swears she could have money *whenever she wanted*; and that she did actually receive from the said *A. B.* at different times, to the amount of *one thousand and seven hundred* pounds; which was part of the *two thousand and two hundred* pounds delivered by her to Mr. *Matbias*. But what reason could a lady, thus liberally supported, have for *pawning* her spoons, ring, wearing apparel, &c? Much less probable is it, that she should have occasion to borrow such small sums as the abovementioned, to redeem the same. Her other lover, seventy years old, who presented her, for only one interview, with *five hundred* pounds*, which made up the said sum of *two thousand and two hundred* pounds, by his being invested with a *light blue* garter, could not belong to any order of British chivalry; and it is well known that
foreigners

† See above, Page 19. * *Ibid.*

foreigners are not accustomed to be so extravagantly munificent.

But had it been really true, that this lady had raised so large contributions on her lovers, is it not more than a little surprising, that she should have neglected to have paid so trifling an account as the last mentioned, for near twelve months? The affixed receipt shews that only a part of it was paid in *August 1760*, some months after *Perrott's* commitment to *Newgate*.

This point has been considered in a more extensive manner, because *Mrs. Ferne* persisted in asserting that the bank-notes, the moities of which were found in the possession of *Perrott* in *Newgate*, were *her* property.

The inconsistencies, or, more properly, falsehoods, with which this deposition of *Mrs. Ferne* is pregnant, are so glaring that it is almost unnecessary to be at the trouble of pointing them out: yet it may not be improper to particularize a few.

In the beginning of her examination *Mrs Ferne* swears that her husband had been dead about *two years*: in the part where she mentions one *Mr. Wyld*, bringing her money to *Litchfield*, she says that he would not take her note for the money he brought, because she was a *married woman*.

To *Mr. Mathias* she said, that she received the notes, which she put into his hands to be exchanged out of the country ‡: and that such notes were cut in two for their more secure conveyance.—From her deposition it appears she received them all in town, and the reason therein alledged for dividing them was, for fear of accidents by fire or otherwise, as it was possible she and her maid might be both *drunk* at the same time.—An irreconcilable contradiction!

Nor are the very rapid travels of the *half* bank-note for *one thousand* pounds (the other half of which was found with *Perrott* in *Newgate*) less remarkable. When she was before *Sir John Fielding* *, on *Thursday*, the 25th of *June 1760*, she declared that she had sent the said half note into *Derbyshire*. On the *Saturday* next following she produced the said half bank-note to *Mr. Mathias* †; and on the *Tuesday* immediately ensuing she swears before the commissioners that she sent the same to one *Mr. Wright*

E 2

at

‡ See above, page 13. * *Ibid.* page 11. † *Ibid.* page 22.

at *Stoke*, or *Stone*, in *Devonshire*, by the private post the night before her then examination †. Upon the whole, Mrs *Ferne*'s deposition exhibits nothing but a continued series of absurdity and falshood.

On the contrary, the information of *Mary Harris* seems every where uniform and consistent; and the truth of it is confirmed by circumstances which cannot well deceive. For certain it is, that Mrs. *Ferne* (though she peremptorily denies it) lived with Mrs. *Herman* in *Watling Street* as a *servant*, and in no other capacity *.

With respect to that very particular transaction of Mrs. *Ferne*'s wanting to purchase the house of the late Sir *John Smith*, in *Queen Square*, her testimony stands indisputably confirmed. For true it is that Mrs. *Ferne* attended the sale, and bid for the house, to the amount of *nine hundred and ninety-five pounds* ‡. It is observable that the moiety of the bank-note which Mrs. *Ferne* took with her, in order to make the purchase, was one of those notes for a *thousand pounds* which she received of Mr. *Matbias*; and the other bank-note of the same value, as will appear hereafter, had been changed some time before. Now, can it be supposed, if *Perrott* had no more in reserve, that he would have consented to the laying out so large a sum, almost his all, merely upon an house; especially as, at that time, he doubted not of being able to extricate himself out of all his difficulties?

A further, and indeed incontestable proof of *Mary Harris*'s veracity is, that a bank-note for *one thousand pounds*, and the several others beforementioned ||, were really found upon the respective parties, circumstanced in the manner she had described; that is to say, divided into two parts, and one moiety of each in the possession of Mrs. *Ferne*, and the other in the custody of *Perrott* in *Newgate*.

Mary Harris says, that upon her asking Mrs. *Ferne* how she came to be possessed so suddenly of so large a fortune? the said Mrs. *Ferne* replied that "she had it from *fellows* whom she *always made to pay* for favours received".—And that in other conversations Mrs.

Ferne

† See above, page 22. * *Ibid.* page 7. ‡ *Ibid.* page 9. || *Ibid.* page 11.

"*Ferne* declared, that " if she had known *Perrott* was going to fail, she would have got *all she could* from him, and his creditors should not have had any thing; but since she had got *all she could*, she must maintain him; though she did not do it out of any particular regard for him †". These expressions may be, not unaptly, considered as a well attested, and truly characteristic description of the general insolence, rapacity, and ingratitude of those who are termed *ladies of pleasure*; and may serve to convince the rash and inconsiderate, that however venial the temporary indulgence of an hour of dalliance may, by some, be thought, yet that it shews the utmost folly, and is attended with manifest danger, to enter into any intimate connections with such women.

Upon the whole, the nature of *Perrott's* affair with Mrs. *Ferne* seems to have been thus.——It is more than probable, that on *Perrott's* first acquaintance with Mrs. *Ferne*, he only visited her occasionally, as an agreeable companion, to spend a wanton hour; and that his presents to her on these occasions were far from being extravagant. Considering the very great quantities of goods *Perrott* had got into his possession, and the confessed methods he was taking to convert the same into ready money, it is impossible he should be under the necessity of *borrowing* when he went his journey to *Chester*; and Mrs. *Ferne's* real circumstances ‡ about the same time, render it equally incredible that she should be in a capacity of *lending*. When *Perrott* began to carry into execution the scheme he had so long meditated, of defrauding his creditors, and accumulating a sum of money for himself, he might, perhaps, become somewhat more generous; but he seems still to have been far from *lavish* in his presents, even after the commission of bankruptcy was issued against him: and after he came to live with Mrs. *Ferne* at her lodgings, it appears that he required of her an account of her daily expences ||. After his commitment to *Newgate*, a somebody, in whom he could confide, became absolutely necessary, in order to transact his affairs; and he well knew that no person who had any sense of honour or integrity would accept of

so

† See *Mary Harris's* information, page 8, 10.
page 7.

|| See above, page 11.

‡ See part I, page 21, and above,

so infamous a trust. From the paper parcel * before mentioned, so carefully and industriously hid in Mrs. *Ferne's* apartments, (which parcel there is the utmost probability to believe, was the repository of *Perrott's* concealed treasure) it must be presumed, that she was no stranger to the real state of *Perrott's* affairs; and therefore *fear*, as well as *necessity*, obliged him to throw himself wholly into her power: and yet it is plain that, under these circumstances, he acted with caution: he would not trust her with *whole* bank notes, but only with the *halves* of them: and continued to exact an account of her expences †. So that if there was indifference on the part of the lady, there was equal distrust on the side of the gentleman. If *Perrott* succeeded in his endeavours to obtain his liberty, Mrs. *Ferne* had a prospect of being placed in a station of life, beyond what she could have expected, which accounts, not improbably, for her perseverance and inflexibility in the course of her examinations.

But to return to the proceedings; one Mr. *Donkin* ‡ appearing to have been pretty largely concerned in the management of *Perrott's* affairs, and to have received of Mrs. *Ferne* considerable sums of money ||, on account of business done for *him*, it was judged proper to examine the said Mr. *Donkin* before the commissioners. His deposition is as follows.

At the *Half Moon Tavern*, in *Cheapside*, *London*, the 3d day of *July*, 1761.

“ *PYE DONKIN*, of *Staples Inn*, *London*, Gentleman, being
 “ sworn and examined the day and year above written, on his
 “ oath, *said*.—That about *four or five days* before the taking
 “ out the commission of bankruptcy against *John Perrott*, the
 “ person against whom the commission now in prosecution is
 “ awarded and issued, this deponent first became acquainted with
 “ the said *John Perrott*; who then applied to this deponent as an
 “ Attorney at Law, for his advice relative to the taking out such
 “ commission.—Says, he was employed by the said *John Perrott*,
 “ as his Attorney, in preparing his last examination, and trans-
 “ acting

* See part I, pages 6, 12 and 23.

† See above, p. 8.

‡ See part I, p. 7.

|| See above p. 21.

“ acting other business for him, relative thereto.—Says, that he
 “ transacted such business on the credit of the said *John Perrott*
 “ only.—Says, that from the time of Mr. *Perrott*’s commitment
 “ by the commissioners, he was *no further* employed by the said
 “ *Perrott*, to the best of this deponent’s recollection, except in
 “ taking *council’s opinion* about the commitment of the said *John*
 “ *Perrott*, (or by any other person on his behalf) until on or about
 “ the *eighth* day of *December last*, as he, this examinant believes,
 “ when he was applied to by *Mary Anne Ferne* (who this de-
 “ ponent, at that time, and for a considerable time afterwards,
 “ looked upon as an *unmarried* woman) to be further employed
 “ by the said *John Perrott*, and endeavour to procure his dis-
 “ charge; the said Mrs. *Ferne*, then telling this deponent,
 “ SHE would supply him with money for that purpose.—Says, that
 “ in consequence of such application, he took several steps to get
 “ the said *John Perrott* discharged, and expended several confi-
 “ derable sums of money in *fees* to *council*, and otherwise, on that
 “ occasion, and has delivered a bill of such *fees* and *disbursements*
 “ to Mrs. *Ferne*, whom he looked upon as his *employer* and *debtor*,
 “ to the amount of *one hundred and ninety-one* pounds, or there-
 “ abouts; which sum, together with about *forty* pounds more,
 “ this deponent hath received from the said Mrs. *Ferne*, on ac-
 “ count of such business; and says, there is, as he computes the
 “ same, about *twenty* and *seven* pounds due to this deponent, on
 “ account of such business.—Says, that all the money he received
 “ from the said Mrs. *Ferne*, was paid him at her *house*, or *lodg-*
 “ *ings*, in *Brunswick-Row*, *Queen-Square*, or at his, this deponent’s
 “ *chambers*, and was all paid in *cash* except the sum of *twenty-*
 “ *five* pounds, which was paid to this deponent in a *bank note*, the
 “ *number*, *date*, or *other particulars* of *which note*, this deponent
 “ cannot at present recollect: but says, that he received *cash* for
 “ such *bank note*, about the latter end of *May*, or beginning of
 “ *June last*, at the shop of Messrs. *Powel* and *Co. Seedsmen*, near
 “ the corner of *King’s-Head-Court*, *Holborn*.——Says he has
 “ wrote letters, from time to time, to the said Mrs. *Ferne*, the
 “ contents of which, were to require money from *her*, to carry on
 “ such business.——Says, he never received any letter from
 “ *her* in answer to *his*, to the best of his remembrance.——

“ Says

" Says that having been employed by the said Mrs. *Ferne* to bring
 " an action for her, against one *****, on a note of hand for twelve
 " pounds, or thereabouts, indorsed to her, and it being necessary
 " for her to make an *affidavit* of such debt, she *then*, and *not be-*
 " *fore*, disclosed to this deponent, that she was a *widow*, and de-
 " clared to this deponent, that she had been married to an *old gen-*
 " *tleman* of SEVENTY-FOUR years of age, of the name of FERNE,
 " a gentleman of fortune, and that, upon his death, a great fortune
 " came to the said Mrs. *Ferne*, as his widow.——Says, she has
 " also often declared to this deponent, that she was a *person* of
 " *family*; and related to the *Spencer* family.——And this de-
 " ponent saith, that he doth not, directly or indirectly, know of
 " any concealment whatsoever, of any part of the estate or effects
 " of the said *John Perrott*, in the hands of any person, or persons,
 " whatsoever; neither hath this deponent, at any time since the
 " issuing of the commission against the said *John Perrott*, seen any
 " bank note, or notes, or the halves, or any other parts of any
 " bank note or notes, in the hands, custody, or possession of the
 " said *John Perrott*, nor hath any conversation passed between
 " this deponent and the said *John Perrott*, relative to any such
 " notes, or parts of notes.

" P. DONKIN."

From this deposition it appears, that to Mr. *Donkin* was com-
 mitted the conduct of *Perrott's* affairs, from the first issuing the
 commission against him, to his commitment to *Newgate*, so that
 all the proceedings had, previous to that time, must be supposed to
 be under the direction of this gentleman.

At the latter end of *April*, or beginning of *May*, Mr. *Matbias*
 was employed, and continued so to be, till some time in *September*
 following. Consequently *Perrott's* very remarkable deposition on
 the 5th of *June*, 1760†, was had under his administration of
 this matter. Why he refused to follow the instructions given by
 a gentleman of great eminence in the Law, and who seemed de-
 sirous of putting the petition in such a way as it might be answered,
 is not explained; but as Mr. *Matbias* thought proper to decline
 having more to do with the affairs of *Perrott* upon his being re-
 manded

† See part I, p. 18.

manded to *Newgate* by *Lord Mansfield* †; it may be, not unreasonably, presumed, that he had, at this time, conceived some well-grounded suspicions, respecting the integrity of his client, else he would scarce have relinquished a cause, for the support of which there was no deficiency of money.——Indeed it is possible *some* people may be of opinion, that it required an extraordinary stretch of faith, to persist in believing Mrs. *Ferne* a woman of fortune, after the justly conceived doubts of *Perrott's* honesty, and after the positive fact of finding the halves of the before-mentioned bank notes in his possession in *Newgate*: for surely Mrs. *Ferne* is the first person in the world, who ever thought of depositing a treasure, by way of security, with a person confined on strong suspicion of concealing his effects, and in a prison, which properly considered, is a mere den of thieves.

After Mr. *Mathias* had declined having any thing more to do with this business, Mr. *Donkin*, in the *December* following, was prevailed upon to resume the management, at the solicitation of Mrs. *Ferne*, who undertook to *supply him with money*. It cannot, therefore be doubted, but he took every proper step, that his own knowledge could suggest, or to which he might be advised by the Sages of the law, in order to effect the purpose for which he was employed. What these steps were, may be seen in the former part of this narrative *. His receipts on this account, in the space of about six months, exclusive of what then remained due to him, are expressed in his own deposition, and make a considerable figure in Mrs. *Ferne's* state of her disbursements ||.

From Mr. *Donkin's* deposition it also appears, that Mrs. *Ferne* declared to him, that “ she had been the wife of a gentleman of the “ name of *Ferne*, seventy-four years of age; and that a *large fortune* came to her as his *widow*”. —— How inconsistent is this declaration with her examination before the commissioners? It is, by no means probable, that a *young* wench would run away with an *old* man; nor is it likely that her friends would have refused their consent to her marrying a *rich* man, whatever might be his age. In her deposition she ascribes all her pecuniary acquisitions

F

to

† See above, Page 15. * See Part 1st, Page 28. || See above, Page 21.

to two *antient* lovers †: surely this LADY was fond of being esteemed the particular favorite of *old age*! or might she not take the hint from *Mackbeath's* congress of ladies in the *Beggar's Opera*?

As to Mrs. *Ferne's* claim to being a *person of family*, and related to a *noble family* ‡, it seems to deserve as little credit, as her pretensions to being possessed of a fortune.—Though *Perrott* could not be imposed on with respect to the *latter*, it is to be feared that she had perswaded him into a firm confidence of the *former*: a confidence, which, there is reason to apprehend, influenced, more than a little, his subsequent behavior; and contributed to uphold him in that pertinacity, so evident from the time of his receiving his sentence, to the hour of his suffering: an event, which she probably had flattered him with the hopes of being able to avert, by her interest among the GREAT.

Could it be believed, that this GENTLEWOMAN of *fortune* and *family*, as she herself has been pleased to assert, was about four years ago at *Northampton* * with scarce a shift to her back; that she allowed the *gentlemen soldiers* then quartered there, to participate indiscriminately of her favours; and that at this time she went by the name of *Boothby*? Yet so speaks report, and well authenticated report.

After taking the last mentioned examination, all proceedings in law or equity were suspended, 'till *Perrott's* trial: but in the mean time much remained to be done by the assignees. Mrs. *Ferne* had solemnly asserted that the respective bank-notes, the halves of which were found in *her's* and *Perrott's* separate custody, were her actual property; and that she had deposited the moities of such notes, only by way of security, with *Perrott*, for her own convenience.

It became, therefore, incumbent on the assignees, previous to their proceeding to any prosecution, to have it in their power to demonstrate, that the notes so found were the real produce of the estate and effects of *Perrott*, before his bankruptcy. The improbability of Mrs.

Ferne's

† See above, Page 19. ‡ *Ibid.* Page . * Mrs. *Ferne*, in her deposition, says, that "she took a journey into different parts of the country, for a year or two." See above, Page 18.

Ferne's being possessed of such a sum *in her own right*, has been already sufficiently explained : but nothing less than clear, positive proofs can, or indeed ought, to satisfy a *court of justice* ; more especially where the life of a subject is the forfeiture consequent of his conviction.

The several bank-notes given by *Mrs. Ferne* to *Mr. Mathias*, and by him carried to the Bank to be exchanged, are before specified, as well as the notes received by the said *Mr. Mathias*, in lieu of those he so received of the said *Mrs. Ferne**.—The task was, to trace out the bank-notes delivered by *Mrs. Ferne* to *Mr. Mathias* ; a task fraught, to appearance, with insuperable difficulties, both on account of the distance of time, and the multiplicity of hands through which they might have been negociated. However, after much pains, and at no inconsiderable expence, the following were traced into the hands of *Henry Thompson*, *Perrott's* confessed agent ; and who, after the strictest enquiry made for that purpose, does not appear to have been, at that time, employed by any other person, in the business of selling goods by commission.

Bank-note K79, for 500*l.* †, was paid by *Messieurs Castels and Whately*, bankers, to a person of the name of *Thompson*, in part of a draught on them by one *Mr. Frederick Gibson*, payable to *Mr. James Mabbs* ; which draught *Mr. Mabbs* paid to *Henry Thompson*, whom he well knew, on the 11th of *January*, 1760, for sundry pieces of *long-lawn*, bought by the said *Mr. Mabbs*, of the said *Henry Thompson*, on the 9th of the said instant *January* ‡.

On the 3d of *October*, 1759, *Perrott* bought of *Mr. Peter Cazalet*, one bale of *Piedmont silk*, at seven months credit.

F 2

On

* See, above, Page 13. † *Ibid.* Page 12, Art. 1st.

‡ It appears, from the above date, that *Thompson* received this note only six days before *Perrott* declared himself a bankrupt : it is also evident, that this is the very note of the value of 500*l.* delivered by *Mrs. Ferne* to *Mr. Mathias* to get exchanged, and which, in her deposition, she pretends to have received for favours she conferred upon the old gentleman in a white coat, and a light blue garter. See above, Page 19.

On the same day, he bought one other bale of *Piedmont silk*, of Messieurs *Zachary* and *Phillimore*, at ten months credit.—Both these debts were proved under the commission.

On the 6th of *December* next following, *Henry Thompson* sold two bales of *Piedmont silk* (exactly corresponding, in weight and quality, with those purchased by *Perrott* of the above-named gentlemen) for ready money, to Messieurs *Chauvet* and *Co.* and received their draught for the same on Sir *Charles Asgill* and *Co.* —Which draught was, in part, paid by the bank-note C282, for 400*l.* on the 15 of the said instant *December* *.

H39,	_____	100 <i>l.</i>
H257,	_____	100 <i>l.</i>
C186,	_____	100 <i>l.</i>
7,	_____	100 <i>l.</i>

The three first of these bank-notes were paid on the 12th of *December*, 1759, and the last on the 15th of the same instant, by Messieurs *G.* and *W. Gines*, to *Henry Thompson*, whom they knew, in part for two notes of hand of Sir *S. Fludyer* and *Co.* given in payment for sundry shalloons, bought by them of the said *Thompson*†.—These notes, having longer time to run than was suitable to the scheme of fraud *Perrott* had in view ‡, *Thompson* was employed

* See above, Page 12, Artic. 2d.

|| From hence may be inferred, that the nature of most of *Perrot*'s dealings, during the last year of his being in trade, he bought upon long credit, and sold, as soon as possible, for ready money.—Can there be a stronger proof of the iniquity of his intentions?

* See above, Page 19, Artic. 3 to 6 inclusive.

† Upon *Thompson*'s being asked, for whom he sold the said shalloons? he replied, for a person in the *Cambrick* trade, (in which *Perrott* was concerned) and that his principal bartered cambricks for shalloons, and, as he got a large profit on the former, he could afford to sell the latter at a low price. — This may serve to shew what pretexts were made use of to facilitate the sale of the goods, thus vended, and to prevent any suspicion in the buyers.

‡ On the 17th of *January* next following the discounting these notes of hand, *Perrott* summoned his creditors. See Part I, Page 1.

employed to get the said notes discounted ; which he did with the said Messieurs *Gines*, who were Sir *Samuel Fludyer*'s bankers.

H382, _____ 100 l. §

This note was paid on the 16th of *November*, 1759, by Messieurs *Fuller* and *Co.* who were *Perrott*'s bankers, to a person who applied in the name of *Wintle*, in part of *Perrott*'s own draught of the same date, for 300 l. payable to *R. Cuningham*.

C262, _____ 200 l. †

Was paid on the 21st of *November*, by Messieurs *Fuller* and *Co.* to the same *Wintle*, in part of another draught of *Perrott*'s, dated the same 21st of *November*, in favour of *Molyneaux* and *Co.*

B253, _____ 100 l. }
H 69, _____ 100 l. } ||

These two notes were also paid by Messieurs *Fuller* and *Co.* on the 10th of *November*, 1759, to the aforesaid *Wintle*, for two draughts of *Norris* and *Gale*, value one hundred pounds each.

With respect to the two first of the four last-mentioned bank-notes, it is to be observed, that they were paid in consequence of *Perrott*'s own draught : had they been really paid to *Cuningham* and *Molyneaux*, the gentlemen in whose favour they appear to be drawn, can it be supposed, that both these notes should have fallen accidentally into the hands of Mrs. *Ferne* ?

But, when it is considered, that all these four notes were received by the same person, in the name of *Wintle*, it must be stretching, even probability, too far, to believe they could all come into the possession of that lady any otherwise than through the means of *Perrott*.——As to the receiver of these notes,
upon

upon enquiring, it was found that there was only one person of the name of *Wintle*, a jeweller of reputation in the *Poultry*, who was acquainted with *Perrott*. This gentleman says, that " he does not remember to have received the said notes for *Perrott* ; but that he had a boy at that time with him, whose name was *John Williams* ; and that he was informed the said boy " was cloathed by the Marine Society, and was gone to the *West Indies* ". From the entries of that society it appears, that the said *John Williams* was, on the 17th of *January*, 1760, cloathed by them, and sent on board the *Port-mahon* ship of war, as servant to Mr. *Greenhead*, the surgeon ; and, by the accounts received at the Navy-office, it also appeared, that, when this enquiry was made concerning him, the said *Williams* was in the *West Indies*. — It is not unlikely but *Perrott*, as he used often to call on Mr. *Wintle*, might send this boy to the banker's, to receive the above-mentioned draughts, with directions to say he came from Mr. *Wintle* ; which might be the reason of the banker's affixing the name of *Wintle* to the said draughts.

Bi38,	_____	100 l.
K151,	_____	100 l.
H397,	_____	100 l.

When, or upon what account, these three notes were received or paid, the assignees have not been hitherto able to discover ; but from the state of the rest, it is most natural to conclude, that they must have been the produce of part of *Perrott's* effects ; and every circumstance concurs to prove they could not be the property of Mrs. *Ferne*.

It required the utmost vigilance and assiduity to trace out so many of these notes ; and had it not luckily happened that they had passed through the hands of the Bank, and some eminent bankers, whose accounts are kept with the most exact regularity, it would have been impossible. To them the public, as well as the assignees of *Perrott*, are greatly obliged for their candour and willingness to assist, in detecting this deep-laid plan of iniquity.

It

It is universally agreed, that nothing is more essential to a successful commerce, than accuracy and method in stating and keeping accounts. To this purpose, it is common with Merchants or Traders who receive, or have occasion to negotiate a number of foreign or inland bills to keep a book, under the title of a *Bill-book*; in which are entered the times when, and the persons from whom the several bills, which come to their hands, were received, — a description of the bills, — when or to whom paid. With respect to Bank notes, they are by the generality of Traders, looked upon only as cash, and no account taken of them. But in reality it seems equally, if not more necessary, to use the same cautions with regard to the latter, as the former; seeing, in case of accidents, it is much easier to prevent the payment of a *bill not due*, or to trace it, after it has been received, than to hinder the circulation of Bank notes, which every where, and at all times, are as current as cash. — The making a regular entry of such notes, would be attended with little trouble, and great advantages might accrue from so doing, was it brought into general practice. The same *Bill-book* might, very properly be applied to this purpose; and even in case of an immediate transference of bank notes from one hand to another, the minuting a description of such notes in a pocket-book, cannot require much time, or occasion much difficulty: and by this means if lost or stolen, the ungenerous finder, or rapacious thief, will scarce ever escape detection.

In the instance of *Perrott*, certain it is, that if, as is before observed, the above-mentioned notes had not been negotiated by gentlemen, who kept a regular account of Bank notes, this prosecution must have been defeated, and, in consequence thereof, public justice must have been eluded.

But to return from this digression, which it is hoped, in a publication intended for general service, will not be thought impertinent; — after such manifest proofs, that the several Bank notes delivered by Mrs. *Ferne* to Mr. *Matbias*, and by him exchanged at the *Bank* for other notes, were the produce of the estate and effects of *Perrott*, it became equally necessary for the assignees to enquire what was become of the notes so received at the Bank in lieu of those carried thither.

Mr.

Mr. *Matbias* believes, that the Bank notes he received of Mrs. *Ferne*, and Mrs. *Ferne* swears, that the Bank notes she delivered to him, amounted to 2,200*l*. Nevertheless it is apprehended, that the testimony of the books in the Bank will be deemed evidence of greater weight, than either the *belief* of the one or the *oath* of the other.——By these books it appears that the notes exchanged by Mr. *Matbias*, amounted to only 2,100*l*. for which he received the three notes above specified *.

One of the notes for *one thousand* pounds, Mrs. *Ferne* admits, in her deposition, to have exchanged, marked *H 215*, 1000*l*. This note appears to have been delivered to Mr. *Charles Smith* †, on the 6th of *October* 1760, and was by him changed with Messieurs *Coutt's* and *Co.* on the same day, for which they gave as follows,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Four of their own notes of hand, value 200 <i>l</i> . each,	800	0	0
One Bank note, payable to Mr. <i>James Coutts</i> , dated	100	0	0
the 4th of <i>October</i> 1760,			
In Cash,	100	0	0
	1000	0	0

The four above-mentioned notes of hand given by Messieurs *Coutt's* and *Co.* were paid in the following manner.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bank note, <i>K 169</i> —to <i>Henry Martin</i> ,—dated the	100	0	0
6th of <i>October</i> 1760,			
Ditto, <i>B 121</i> —to <i>James Coutts</i> ,—dated the 24th	50	0	0
of <i>October</i> 1760,			
Money,	50	0	0
Paid to Mr. <i>Setree</i> ‡, on the 27th of <i>October</i> 1760.	200	0	0
	Bank		

* See above, p. 12.

† Mr. *Smith* says, that at the time of his changing this note he received of Mrs. *Ferne* only about *twenty* pounds. — See above in Mrs. *Ferne's* account of *disbursements*, page 21.

‡ Mr. *Setree*, was partner with Mr. *Bellamy*. — See *ibid.*

Bank notes, C 292—to J. Cleveland—23d Oct. 1760	£ 50
K 32—to Drummond and Co. 25 July, 1760	50
K 253—to Dan. Race—20 August, 1760	30
H 97—to Clifford and Co.—11 April, 1760	30
In money	40

Paid on the 29th of October, * 1760, to Mr. Charles } 200
Smith, by his servant.

Bank Notes H 389—to Willis and Co.—27 March, 1761	£ 100
H 373—to Backwell and Co.—31 do. 1761	50
363—to Roffee and Co.—9 April 1761	30
In money	20

Paid on the 9th of April, 1761, to Mrs. Ferne. 200

Bank Notes K 316—to Drummond and Co.—26 March 1761	£ 50
C 174—to S. and W. Smith—27 Feb. 1761	40
C 272—to J. Lascomb—2 March, 1761	50
C 134—to Hoare and Co.—10 April 1761	50
In Money	10

Paid the 14th of April, 1761, to Mrs. Ferne. 200

Mrs. *Ferne* has given an account in what manner she disposed of the monies she so received, and perhaps it is the truest part of her deposition *; ladies of her disposition are always fond of

* From this account it is plain that Mrs. *Ferne* had received six hundred pounds, out of one of the notes for one thousand pounds received of Mr. *Mathias*, previous to her attempting to become a purchaser of Sir *John Smith's* house in *Queen-Square*, which was not offered publicly for sale till some time in *November, 1761*. Consequently the half bank note for 1000l. which she carried with her for that purpose, must be the moiety of that which was found with *Perrott* in *Newgate*. See before p. 28

† Halves of these three notes were found in the apartments of Mrs. *Ferne*, and the other halves in *Perrott's* trunk, in *Newgate*, sewed up in the before described dirty rag. See p. 11

* See above 21.

finery, nor would *Perrott's* circumstances allow him to lay too many restraints upon her extravagance : and the law, in all cases expensive, is much more so, when employed in the defence of injustice. However, this is clear, that the monies so expended by *Mrs. Ferne*, arose from the effects of the Bankrupt.

Having thus traced out the several before-mentioned bank notes, and being possessed of the clearest proofs that they were a part of *Perrott's* estate, in *September 1761*, the assignees preferred a bill of indictment against him at the *Old Bailey*, which was found ; and upon which, on *Thursday* the 22d day of *October* following, *Perrott* was brought to trial : in the course of which, the council employed in his behalf seemed to rely much more, indeed wholly, on the discovery of some error in the proceedings on the part of the prosecution, than on the innocence of their client. But all their endeavours were in vain ; the evidence against him was irrefragable, and the Jury, without hesitation, pronounced him GUILTY.

It was expected that *Mrs. Ferne* would have appeared, in order to maintain the property in these notes, which she had *by oath* claimed, before the commissioners ; that on the day of *Perrott's* trial, she attended in the neighbourhood of the *Old Bailey*, and for this purpose, is beyond contradiction ; but the evidence being so clear, she was advised that she could be of no service to him ; but, on the contrary, might bring herself into some danger : this advice she prudently took.

In his subsequent behaviour, to the time of his execution, this unhappy criminal is reported to have evinced great penitence ; and it would almost border on inhumanity to doubt his sincerity : but certain it is, that he could not, by any means, be prevailed on, to make any further retribution to his injured creditors, though there is the utmost reason to believe it to have been in his power. The deficiency in his affairs amounts to at least 17000*l*.

Having thus finished the whole of what was undertaken, the compiler takes his leave with this observation ; that if *Perrott's* punishment is not sufficient to deter others from offences of the same sort, it is hoped, this publication will contribute to facilitate the means of detection.

A P P E N D I X.

MANY difficulties having arisen with respect to the commitment of bankrupts, by desire of several gentlemen of the law, and with a view to extend, as far as possible, the utility of this publication, the warrant for the commitment of *Perrott* is added; which may be considered as an authoritative precedent; it having, after a solemn discussion of its merits and validity, received the approbation of the Right honourable Lord *Mansfield*, lord chief-justice, and the rest of the judges of the court of *King's-bench*, who unanimously declared it right and good, in *form* and *substance*.

But, previous to the warrant, it may not be improper to insert the clauses of the act of parliament, upon which the said warrant was grounded.

In an act of the fifth year of his late majesty, intituled *An act to prevent the committing of frauds by bankrupts*, stand the following clauses.

“ *AND* be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that
“ it shall and may be lawful to and for the said commissioners, or
“ the major part of them, to *examine*, as well by word of mouth,
“ as on interrogatories in writing, *all* and *every person* and *persons*,
“ against whom any commission of *bankrupt* is, or shall be a-
“ warded, touching all matters relating to the *trade, dealings,*
“ *estate, and effects* of all and every such *bankrupt* and *bankrupts*,
“ and also to examine, in the manner aforesaid, all and every *other*
“ person, duly summoned before, or present at, any meeting of
“ the said commissioners, or the major part of them, touching all

" matters relating to the *person, trade, dealings, estate, and effects*
 " of all and every such *bankrupt and bankrupts*, and any *act* or
 " *acts of bankruptcy* committed by *him, her, or them*; and also
 " to take down, or reduce into writing, the answers of *verbal ex-*
 " *aminations* of every such *bankrupt or other person*, had, or taken
 " before them as aforesaid; which examination, so taken down or
 " reduced into writing, the party examined *shall, and is hereby re-*
 " *quired to sign and subscribe*. AND in case any such *bankrupt or*
 " *bankrupts*, or *other person or persons*, shall *refuse to answer*, or
 " shall not *fully answer*, to the *satisfaction of the commissioners*, or
 " the *major part of them*, all lawful questions put to him, her,
 " them, by the said commissioners, or the major part of them, as
 " well by *word of mouth*, as by *interrogatories in writing*, or shall
 " *refuse to sign and subscribe* his, her, or their examination, so
 " taken down or reduced into writing, as aforesaid, (not having a
 " reasonable objection, either to the wording thereof, or otherwise
 " to be allowed by the said commissioners) it *shall and may be*
 " *lawful* to and for the said commissioners, or the major part of
 " them, by WARRANT *under their hands and seals*, to COMMIT
 " him, her, or them, to such *prison*, as the said commissioners, or
 " the major part of them shall think fit, there to remain *with-*
 " *out bail or mainprise*, until such time as such person or
 " persons shall *submit him, her, or themselves* to the said com-
 " *missioners*, and *full answer make* to the *satisfaction* of the said
 " *commissioners*, to all such questions as shall be put to him, her,
 " or them, as aforesaid, and sign and subscribe such examination,
 " as aforesaid, according to the true intent and meaning of this act.

" PROVIDED *always*, That in case any person or persons shall
 " be committed by the said commissioners for refusing to answer, or
 " not fully answering any question or questions put to him, her,
 " or them, by the said commissioners by word of mouth, or on
 " *interrogatories*, that the said commissioners *shall, in their war-*
 " *rant of commitment, specify such question or questions.*"

Copy

Copy of WARRANT of COMMITMENT.

At Guildhall, London, 19th April, 1760.

“ **W**HEREAS his MAJESTY’S COMMISSION under the
 “ GREAT SEAL of GREAT BRITAIN, bearing date at
 “ *Westminster*, the 19th day of *January* last past, grounded upon the
 “ several statutes made concerning bankrupts, hath been awarded
 “ and issued against *John Perrott*, of *Ludgate-Hill*, *London*, *Mer-*
 “ *chant*, directed unto us, who have hereunto subscribed our
 “ names and set our seals: who have also respectively taken the
 “ oath appointed by an Act of Parliament, passed in the fifth year
 “ of his present Majesty’s reign (Intituled, an Act for the better
 “ preventing frauds committed by bankrupts, for commissioners
 “ of bankrupts to take before they act as commissioners in the
 “ execution of the powers or authorities, given and granted, by
 “ the said Act, or Acts of parliament now in force, concerning
 “ bankrupts, and to *Charles Nalson Cole*, Esq; and *Arthur Trol-*
 “ *lope*, Gentleman, being the major part of the commissioners,
 “ named to execute the said commission; and it having appeared
 “ to the major part of the said commissioners, in the said com-
 “ mission named and authorized, upon good and sufficient proof,
 “ upon oath, that the said *John Perrott*, hath, from the month
 “ of *July*, 1758, carried on the trade and business of a *Merchant*,
 “ in his house on *Ludgate-Hill* aforesaid, by buying and selling
 “ linens, lace, and other wares and merchandizes, and by ex-
 “ porting and importing divers and fundry kinds of goods, and
 “ hath thereby sought, and endeavoured to get his living as other
 “ Merchants usually do; and in the course of his said trading
 “ and dealing, he became indebted unto *William Hewitt* of *New-*
 “ *gate-street*, *London*, *Warehousman*, in the sum of 100*l.* and
 “ upwards, for goods sold and delivered; and also have found upon
 “ good proof, upon oath, that the said *John Perrott* did, before the
 “ date and suing forth of the said commission, become a bankrupt,
 “ within the true intent and meaning of the several statutes made,
 “ and now in force concerning bankrupts, some, or one of them.
 “ And they did adjudge and declare him a bankrupt accordingly.
 “ **A**ND WHEREAS the major part of the said com-
 “ missioners, did cause notice to be given in the *London-Gazettee*,
 “ of the 22d day of *January* last past, that the said *John Perrott*,
 “ was

“ was thereby required to surrender himself to the said com-
 “ missioners in the said commission named, or the major part
 “ of them, on the 26th of *January*, and on the 4th of *February*
 “ last past, and on the 4th day of *March* last, at four of the
 “ clock in the afternoon, on each of the said days, at *Guild-hall*,
 “ *London*; and make a full disclosure and discovery of his estate
 “ and effects. *And whereas*, the said *John Perrott*, did on the
 “ said 4th day of *February* last, surrender himself to the major
 “ part of the commissioners, in the said commission named and
 “ authorized; but being sworn and examined, said that he was
 “ not then prepared to make a full disclosure and discovery of his
 “ estate and effects, but prayed time for the doing thereof, which
 “ was granted to him accordingly.——*And whereas*, the said
 “ *John Perrott*, attended the major part of the said com-
 “ missioners, in and by the said commission named and authorized,
 “ on the said 4th day of *March*, in order to finish his examination,
 “ and to make a full disclosure and discovery of his estate and
 “ effects, but producing to the said commissioners, an order of the
 “ Right Honourable Sir *Robert Henley*, Knt. Lord-Keeper of the
 “ great seal of *Great-Britain*, dated 28th day of said *February*,
 “ 1760, for enlarging the time of the said *John Perrott* for dis-
 “ closing and discovering his estate, and finishing his examination
 “ for the space of 46 days, to be computed from the said 4th of
 “ *March*, to this day. *And whereas* the said *John Perrott* attended
 “ us on this day, in pursuance of the said order, in order to finish
 “ his examination, and to make a full disclosure and disco-
 “ very of his estate and effects, and being then and there duly
 “ sworn and required by us to make such disclosure and discovery;
 “ We, the said commissioners did cause the following question
 “ in writing, to be propounded to him the said *John Perrott*, (that
 “ is to say) “ As you do admit that you have spent the last
 “ week, previous to this your examination, with Mr. *Maynard*,
 “ one of your assignees, to settle and adjust your accounts, and to
 “ draw up a true state thereof, to enable you to close such your
 “ examination; and do likewise admit, that upon such state
 “ thereof, it appears, that after giving you credit for all sums of
 “ money paid by you, and making you debtor for all goods sold
 “ and delivered to you, from your first entring into trade to the
 “ time

“ time of your bankruptcy, it appears, that there is a deficiency
 “ of the sum of 13,513l.—Give a true and particular account
 “ what is become of the same, and how and in what manner
 “ you have applied and disposed thereof.—To which question so
 “ put by us, as aforesaid, the said *John Perrott* did wilfully and
 “ obstinately refuse to give any other than the following general
 “ answer, (that is to say) That on goods sold this last year I
 “ have lost upwards of 2000l. and by mournings I have lost
 “ upwards of 1000l. and that for nine or ten years I
 “ have, and am sorry to say it, been extremely extravagant, and
 “ spent large sums of money—*John Perrott*.—Which answer
 “ of the said *John Perrott*, not being satisfactory to us the said
 “ commissioners—These are therefore to WILL, REQUIRE,
 “ and AUTHORIZE you immediately, upon receipt hereof, to ar-
 “ rest and take into your custody the body of the said *John Per-*
 “ *rott*, and him safely to convey to his Majesty’s prison of
 “ *Newgate*, and him there to deliver to the *Keeper* of the said
 “ *prison*, who is hereby required and authorized, by virtue of the
 “ *commission* and *statutes* aforesaid, to receive the said *John Perrott*,
 “ into his custody, and him safely to keep and detain *without bail*
 “ *or mainprise*, until such time as he shall submit himself to us, the
 “ said commissioners, or the major part of the said commissioners,
 “ by the said commission named and authorized, and full answer
 “ make to our or their satisfaction, to the question so put to him by
 “ us as aforesaid---And for so doing this shall be your sufficient
 “ warrant. Given under our hands and seals at the *Guildhall* of the
 “ *City of London*, this 19th day of *April*, in the year of our Lord
 “ 1760.

To *William Chesbbyre*, our messenger,
 or *Robert Brown* his assistant.

And

To *Richard Akerman*, keeper of his
 Majesty’s prison of *Newgate*, or to
 his deputy there.

F. FILMER,

Cr. LOFFT,

Wm. CRAWLEY.

F I N I S.

ADVERTISEMENT.

WHEREAS *Henry Thompson*, in his examination before the commissioners, declared that he sold the first goods of any consequence, which he received from *Perrott*, to Mr. *Cumberlege*, a *Linen-Draper*, in *Newgate-street**; the said Mr. *Cumberlege* and his wife both positively insist, that they are entire strangers to the said *Henry Thompson*; that they never had dealings with him, of any kind or nature whatsoever; and that they have not bought any goods of the sortment, described by the said *Henry Thompson*, in his deposition, for the space of ten or eleven years past, and then only for exportation.

* See Part I, page 5.



ERRATA in the FIRST PART.

Page 2, line 25, for *beld* read *bad*.—P. 9, l. 22, for *advantage*, r. *advantages*.—P. 11, l. 13, for *same*, r. *said*.—P. 14, l. 22, for *examinat*, r. *examinant*.—P. 16, l. 15, for *to*, r. *by*.—P. 18, l. 22, for *o*, r. *on*.—P. 53, l. 6, from the bottom, for *Whitby*, r. *Whiting*.

In the SECOND PART.

P. 11, l. 3, from the bottom, for *below*, r. *in the next page*.—P. 24, l. 8, in the word *circumstances*, wanted, *u*.—In some copies, p. 40, l. 12, *6th* of *October* is printed, which should be, and is so altered in other copies, the *4th* of *October*.

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